

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204975

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BR, US

SUBJECT: CALL ON SECRETARY BY AMBASSADOR PINHEIRO

1. BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR PINHEIRO PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE SECRETARY AUGUST 16.

2. AFTER TRANSMITTING GREETINGS FROM FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA, PINHEIRO CONGRATULATED THE SECRETARY FOR TURNING THE TIDE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BY HIS VISIT AND THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, AND THE SUBSEQUENT VISIT OF SECRETARY SIMON. ON BEHALF OF SILVEIRA HE THEN PRESENTED THE SECRETARY WITH A REPRODUCTION OF THE ONLY REMAINING ORIGINAL RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1826 AMPHICTYONIC CONFERENCE OF PANAMA WHICH IS HOUSED IN THE HISTORIC ARCHIVES OF THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. (THE REPRODUCTIONS WERE PRODUCED FOR A CEREMONY PRESIDED OVER BY PRES. GEISEL ON JUNE 21 WHICH COMMEMORATED THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGRESS OF PANAMA.)

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3. AFTER THANKING HIM FOR THE COPY OF THE PROCEEDING AND

REMARKING THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES MUST KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH, THE SECRETARY ASKED FOR AMB. PINHEIRO'S EVALUATION OF ARGENTINA ON THE BASIS OF HIS RECENT POSTING THERE.

4. AMBASSADOR PINHEIRO SAID THAT THE PROSPERITY OF ARGENTINA IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE EQUILIBRIUM OF ALL SOUTH AMERICA. AT THE TIME OF THE COUP, ARGENTINA HAD DETERIORATED BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND IN A SECURITY SENSE. NOW IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PERIOD. TERRORISTS OF ALL NATIONALITIES ARE FIGHTING BACK AND IF THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT SUCCEED IN PUTTING DOWN THE TERRORISM, THE COUNTRY WILL END UP LIKE CUBA.

5. PINHEIRO CONTINUED THAT THE TERRORIST MOVEMENT IS SO STRONG AND WELL PREPARED THAT EVEN AFTER A YEAR THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT SUCCEEDED IN CLEANING OUT AN ISOLATED AREA LIKE TUCUMAN. HENCE ONE CAN APPRECIATE THE DIFFICULTY OF SUBDUING THE TERRORISTS IN AREAS LIKE ROSARIO, CORDOBA AND BUENOS AIRES. THERE IS NATURALLY AN EXCESS OF VIOLENCE JUST AS THERE WAS BEFORE. TERRORIST ACTS PROVOKE REACTIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN SOCIETY FOR WHICH THE GOVERNMENT GETS THE BLAME. PINHEIRO SAID HE KNEW A NUMBER OF THE GENERALS AND THEY WOULD NOT CONDONE THESE ACTS. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD RECOMMENDED TO HIS GOVERNMENT FULL SUPPORT FOR THE VIDELA GOVERNMENT AND THAT PRES. GEISEL HAD RECENTLY RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO VIDELA'S SUGGESTION OF COOPERATION.

6. THE SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT WE DO NOT INTEND TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE AREA AND THE DANGER OF DOMINATION BY RADICAL ELEMENTS. THE PROBLEM IS, HE SAID, THAT IF THE GOA GOES BEYOND CERTAIN LIMITS OF TOLERANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THEN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL REACT. THE SECRETARY CLOSED BY SAYING BRAZIL COULD ALWAYS COUNT ON OUR SPECIAL ATTENTION. KISSINGER

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